

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

December 19, 2005

4:15 PM

Chairman O'Neil called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen O'Neil, Shea, Garrity, Smith, Lopez

Messrs.: R. MacKenzie, S. Maranto, D. Prew, Fire Chief Kane, Deputy Police Chief Simmons

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Ratify and confirm poll conducted December 13 and 14, 2005, approving a request of the Police Department for the replacement of a cruiser using MER funds to be reimbursed upon receipt of insurance monies.

Alderman Shea moved to ratify and confirm the poll. Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Garrity stated I don't believe I was ever polled on this.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated I believe we attempted to reach you.

Chairman O'Neil stated there are a couple of Aldermen, apparently, who didn't get called.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson responded yes there are a couple of Aldermen we didn't reach.

Alderman Garrity asked but we will get reimbursed from the insurance monies.

Chairman O'Neil answered that is my understanding.

Chairman O'Neil called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Ratify and confirm poll conducted December 13 and 14, 2005, approving

amendment of resolution and CIP budget authorizations for the 2006 CIP Displaced Employee Homeless Prevention Program by reducing project from \$33,000 to \$25,000, eliminating cash and funding solely from Affordable Housing Trust Funds.

Alderman Shea stated I am sure that there was a committee that recommended this. Mr. MacKenzie, could you explain this.

Robert MacKenzie, Planning Director, stated we were requested to meet with a state representative and Dick Anagnost came down and several staff met and Alderman Lopez sat in. We reviewed whether these would be duplicative of any funds that the state recently authorized. We did determine that the roughly \$8,000 for the Latin American Center Translation could be handled by the state but these type of funds could not provide any type of housing assistance. So the \$25,000 was determined to be something that was needed and not funded through any other program. We also did discuss whether we could swap funds and make it all Affordable Housing Trust Fund and we determined that we could do that. The cash amount, which were balances from various CIP projects would then lapse and then go into the City's fund balance.

Alderman Shea stated we received this paper here. I am not sure if you received it. It is an update on rental assistance. Do you want to comment on that?

Mr. MacKenzie asked is that the one from The Way Home.

Alderman Shea answered yes.

Mr. MacKenzie stated yes we did see that. There is clearly a need. The Way Home provides a good service because not only do they provide some assistance to families in need but they have a lot of contacts and they know how to counsel families. Families generally do not understand what some of their opportunities and options are and The Way Home has a lot of expertise in helping out families. So it is not just money but frequently they know landlords that will give them a break on rent or provide new units.

Alderman Shea asked so the conclusion is that any money sent down from the state cannot offset what this assistance is going to do for the people that were laid-off when their company closed.

Mr. MacKenzie answered that is correct.

Alderman Lopez stated we do have a representative from The Way Home if anyone has any questions.

On motion of Alderman Lopez, duly seconded by Alderman Shea it was voted to ratify and confirm the poll.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Petition for discontinuance of two unnamed streets submitted by PSNH.

On motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Shea it was voted to refer this petition to a road hearing to be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 5:30 PM.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Communication from the Director of Planning requesting various CIP project extensions until June 30, 2006.

Alderman Smith asked, Bob, going down your list I see an item for South Willow Street, 1994, for improvements. I see another one for South Willow Street area improvements. It is quite a sum of money and I would like to know what the nature of the situation is down there on South Willow Street.

Mr. MacKenzie answered those are a little different than other CIP funds in that they cannot lapse. These are funds that the Planning Board negotiates with developers and they are traffic contributions to make improvements. The guidelines are that they either have to protect some of the residential neighborhoods or improve traffic flows on South Willow Street so before they can be used the Planning Board has to okay it. Right now some of the funds are being used to do a study on Jobin Drive to help with traffic calming and we have also kind of earmarked a portion of that money for if the Board does move ahead with improvements at South Willow and South Maple Street. I know Alderman Garrity had been looking for some improvements that might be needed there.

Alderman Smith asked why is this such a lapse of time. It has been 11 years since the allocation in 1994.

Mr. MacKenzie answered that is when developers started making contributions so they have accumulated over the years. We will probably have to, at some point, just roll those into a brand-new account so it is not our oldest lasting one. They can't really lapse because they are contributions so it is like a continuing fund rather than just a project year.

Alderman Garrity stated the last item, South Willow Street Improvements, is that the current balance - \$180,000+.

Mr. MacKenzie responded yes but there are two projects that cover the same territory so the total, I think, was about \$230,000.

Alderman Lopez asked, Bob, in 2002 the CDBG money expansion, MCRC for \$20,000 and then in 2001 \$74,000 how is that project going.

Mr. MacKenzie answered they are working on it now. I will let Sam kind of summarize where they are.

Sam Maranto stated there was a bid opening last Wednesday for that project. Right now the architect, CMK, is reviewing those bids.

Alderman Lopez asked are you going to stay on top of it. I don't want this taking another three years.

Mr. Maranto answered yes.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity it was voted to approve the CIP project extensions through June 30, 2006.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 7 of the agenda:

Communication from Bruce Thomas advising that repairs to the elevator and building at Victory Garage can be addressed through the FY2006 Parking Facility Maintenance Program at an estimated cost of \$7,939 rather than deferring the work to the FY2007 CIP.

On motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Smith it was voted to approve expenditures in the amount of \$7,939 from the 711606 Parking Facility Maintenance Program to repair the elevator and building at the Victory Garage

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 8 of the agenda:

Communication from Angelo Mazzella, General Manager of Manchester Wolves, requesting use of the JFK Coliseum for practice sessions beginning the middle of March until the end of August.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Smith it was voted to refer this item to the Committee on Lands and Buildings and the Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Department.

TABLED ITEM

9. Communication from Diane Prew, Director of Information Services, relative to the selection of a new Police and Fire Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System.

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Shea it was voted to remove this item from the table.

Chairman O'Neil asked, Diane, do you want to do a presentation.

Diane Prew, Information Systems Director, stated what we would like to do is go through our presentation on the Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System for Police and Fire. We would like to start by just briefly going over the terms. A CAD system is a computer aided dispatch system. That means using computers to dispatch police and fire vehicles. An RMS system is a records management system. That is using the computers to maintain all of the information about an incident, storing the data, doing data analysis and creating reports. The discussion from the last meeting turned to Comstat. Comstat is a computer analysis of crime statistics. It is a management program to increase accountability within police departments with a view to more effective crime reduction. It is a management philosophy rather than a piece of software. Now the reason we have been going out for a system for police and fire is that the police department system, which was installed in 1988, the company, CPLIMS has been sold, the support is going away and the new owner did not bid on our RFP. The fire system was installed in 1994. Their vendor is also changing software and theirs has not been supported since September 2005. So both system at this time do need to be replaced. We went through a very extensive selection process. We put out RFP's for both police and fire. There were vendor demonstrations that were participated in by both departments. The departments put together detailed specifications for an RFP that was issued in March 2005. At that time we had 12 vendors respond. Those responses were reviewed. Demonstrations were held of those vendors we were familiar with and we narrowed the field to three finalists. Those being Intergraph Public Safety, which is located in Huntsville, Alabama; Intergraph International, which is out of Tampa, Florida; and New World Systems, which is out of Troy, Michigan. We went through a very detailed review of these vendors. We again had demonstrations in-house. These were two-day demonstrations that were attended by not only upper management but the dispatchers and records clerks that would be using the system. We had reference checks. We called numerous vendors that are currently using the software and then we did site visits. Again, those site visits we had actually dispatchers and the people who would be using the system come along on those trips. We did

financial checks on the vendors through the Finance Department. We had our GIS consultant review the mapping systems for all three vendors and finally Police and Fire were able to agree on a vendor and that vendor was Intergraph Public Safety. Intergraph is a subsidiary of Intergraph Corporation. It has been providing public safety software since 1989 and has over 275 installations worldwide for very large agencies – Washington DC Metropolitan Police and Fire, Howard County, Maryland, and Ft. Lauderdale just to name a few. They have fully integrated mapping capabilities throughout their system. They support major police and fire agencies. Their system is has mature functionality and they will handle the needs of both police and fire and they can provide the necessary information into a Comstat system. A number of their clients do participate in Comstat type programs and they are using their Intergraph systems to provide that information. The funding for the project...we estimate the total project cost to be \$1,870,000. We currently have CIP funds of \$1,490,000 so we need an additional \$380,000.

Chairman O'Neil stated thank you for the effort you put in to try to simplify this in Aldermanic terms. That is not always an easy thing to do.

Alderman Shea stated at the last meeting there was an agreement that you would meet with the Mayor-elect and you have done that.

Ms. Prew responded yes we did.

Alderman Shea asked what is his judgement on this or did he give an opinion.

Joseph Kane, Fire Chief, stated last Wednesday we met with the Mayor and his staff. We went over all of the programming in detail. Actually I had anticipated either him or someone from his staff being here. I did speak with Sean Thomas this afternoon. I also spoke with Alicia Preston this afternoon. I think Deputy Chief Simmons did also. They had indicated their support for the program. One of the key elements or key concerns that they had was no so much for the program because they understand that the program is going to meld with Comstat but one of their concerns was the additional money. We told them that we would work with them in regards to seeing if we could get some additional funding either through some sort of state grant or federal grant or something like that. They said that they supported the program.

Alderman Shea stated the other question I have is obviously one of the Aldermen indicated that while he was watching the television program there was no listing of any kind of comparative bid in terms of the cost but you indicated here that the selectivity was based on all they could contribute and the three that were actually finalists. Do you have the particular amounts that they bid? In your judgement

this was the most practical and the most reasonable and the most helpful program that you could select?

Fire Chief Kane responded right. As you indicated number one that information was sent out to the entire Board so the entire Board has that information. Of the three main bidders obviously two of the bidders are identical in regards to cost and then the third bidder was substantially lower in cost. We did bring that bidder in because his original bid looked like he could do everything and it looked like a good bid and we did bring them in. We did have them in for two days where we went through a demonstration with our staffs. We did go to two different sites where that vendor was up and running. We did have some questions in regards to his map specifically. He came back in for a third time to demonstrate his map and they couldn't get that product where we wanted it to be. It is a third party person that he is partnering with. Then they asked if they could come back a fourth time to do that demo and we allowed them and it really wasn't where we expected it should be. The product is not really completed at this point in time. They are still in the process of developing the product so we are being asked to buy a product that is not even done yet.

Chairman O'Neil stated if I may follow-up on Alderman Shea's thoughts, Diane, you had indicated when we spoke that it took some time to get all of the vendors bidding apples to apples.

Ms. Prew answered that is correct.

Chairman O'Neil stated and of the three finalists you did get Intergraph and New World fitting apples to apples and as we can see their numbers are within \$5,000 of one another.

Ms. Prew responded that is correct.

Chairman O'Neil stated and there was a concern by the third firm that had the lower price that...these are my words not yours that they were fairly new and a start-up company and they didn't offer all of the...weren't able to solve all of the needs we had and that in my opinion we might be learning on their dime.

Ms. Prew replied that is correct. They are a comparably small company. They have a small customer base in this area. At the time the RFP came in they had under 40 employees. Intergraph has over 300 that are dealing with public safety. This company has maybe a dozen or so clients dealing with the software that we are using. We would be their second largest client, I believe, and the rest are quite a bit smaller. The concern is whether they think the product could continue to mature. It is also a privately held firm so financials were not readily available.

Alderman Lopez stated I want to commend the three of you for sitting down and making us understand. I think we were all confused at the last meeting and we were looking at Comstat as a program but it is a management style and this new system that you are talking about with Intergraph Public Safety will give us or anyone like the Mayor or the Chief of Police the management tools they need to see, for example, all of the domestic problems within the City and where they are happening. So anything that Mayor-elect Guinta wanted for a management style, like New York has, he will be able to come to you and say let me have this particular thing on a graph so I can see what is going on. Is that correct?

Deputy Chief Simmons replied that is correct. Intergraph not only has over 20 reports readily available but we can create our own reports as well. It has an extensive mapping program that will assist us in pinpointing areas of crime. It will also integrate with our crime analysis software, which will do the same thing as well. He was very satisfied and we are more than satisfied that this is the company as far as crime analysis goes and the need for Comstat related reports to go with.

Alderman Smith stated according to testimony apparently the Mayor-elect supports it but he question is funding. You will take 18-22 months to implement this is that correct? I was wondering if I could ask the CIP staff if we could bond money if it is agreeable with the Police and Fire Chiefs and spread that out over two years. They are short \$380,000. I was wondering if we could get the funding that way.

Mr. MacKenzie responded I would say that we have gone back a couple of times to look at potential CIP project balances. Given that this is computer equipment, it is a smaller bond life than most but we have not pinpointed any other bond balances that could be used for this. In reference to your question, we could postpone that portion until the next time the Board bonds monies and the Board could bond on a short life span funds for this project. If the Board was going to bond some time in May of next year, the \$380,000, the Board could wait and in the meantime while we are waiting for that time span as Chief Kane said we may be exploring other or they may be exploring other resources like homeland security grants or other grants to reduce that amount.

Alderman Garrity stated I spoke with Chief Kane and asked him who wrote the \$750,000 grant and it wasn't our grant writer at City Hall. Does he participate in any grants with public safety?

Mr. MacKenzie replied he does not participate as much with the Fire Department. He does assist the Police Department in writing grants.

Alderman Garrity stated I would hope that would become a priority after January when we are trying to find a funding source for the \$380,000. That would be very helpful.

Chairman O'Neil asked is there a specific reason why he doesn't help the Fire Department out more.

Mr. Maranto stated when he came on board he contacted every department and offered assistance to them. Some departments already have individuals who write grants. He does provide resources and he does that on a regular basis and I think Chief Kane can confirm that.

Fire Chief Kane stated the people that write our grants, I think you know them, Nick Campasano and David Albin, do an excellent job and they just like to sit down and pound it out by themselves.

Chairman O'Neil responded but if we have a grant writer on board we should be utilizing his service.

Fire Chief Kane replied we should. These guys know the forms and the make-up of the grants and Nick actually sits on the committee for the grants that get approved. They just usually go right ahead and knock it out but we certainly can have them work with the grant writer in regards to this. We probably would need to look at something different than we currently have in regards to a grant for this.

Alderman Garrity asked so Nick Campasano and David Albin primarily do the grants for you.

Fire Chief Kane answered that is correct.

Alderman Garrity stated so we are paying a District Chief and a Deputy Chief to write grants while we have a grant writer down at City Hall. I can't understand why...we have a grant writer down at City Hall and his number one job should be writing grants and it should be focused on public safety because there are a lot of grants out there for homeland security. It doesn't make any sense to me at all why we have a grant writer who doesn't work throughout the City writing grants.

Alderman DeVries stated I would like to ask the contract that you are entering into has something been built into that to protect the City against any kind of future change in the status of the company that might render it not support by the company. Have you built in protection so we are not repeating our last mistake?

Ms. Prew responded one of the advantages of selecting a firm with a large customer base like this...first of all the chances of the firm sort of abandoning it are much less and with a customer base that size if the firm did wish to move out of that business it would have an asset that it would sell to another vendor who would gladly pick that up to support it. We have other large systems in the City that have moved to different vendors but because the user base is so large we really don't...we haven't experienced a great deal of change in the fact that ownership has changed. It is with the smaller firms when they get out of the business and they are sold to other companies they are just trying to pick up the customer base and assets and they gradually work out of the old software. With a company like Intergraph we expect the product will be kept up-to-date. We are looking at a 10-15 year period of time that police and fire would be using the software so this is a long-term commitment. We do have protections written into the contract to the extent that source code has to be escrowed and we will get that if something happens to the company. We do have the right to use the product in perpetuity should the product no longer be supported.

Alderman DeVries replied so the short answer is that you are comfortable that should something dramatically change with Intergraph say three to five years from now you will not feel the need to come back and ask for a different company. You feel protected that this software and hardware component will be supported?

Ms. Prew answered yes I do.

Alderman DeVries asked the additional sum, I think Chief Kane you indicated those are Fire Act grants.

Fire Chief Kane answered yes.

Alderman DeVries asked so the initial grant you wrote to Fire Act was that built around the impression that this would cost less money than it has been maybe thinking that you were going to be doing business with that less expensive vendor or was the amount that Fire Act decided to fund less than anticipated.

Fire Chief Kane answered the Fire Act grant is an addition to this. It is a separate component to this process. It is not necessarily part of this. This CIP request actually went in three years ago I think.

Ms. Prew stated it was part of the FY05 budget.

Fire Chief Kane stated and the Fire Act grant was written last February. It is just an addition. This is something that would fold into it. It is not something that...well augment it I should say.

Chairman O'Neil stated just to clarify, Chief, it was always the intent that this would be bonded by the City.

Fire Chief Kane responded that is correct.

Alderman Shea stated I know we got off the subject of grant writing and so forth but I think, Bob, could you and I make a motion to have the grant writer submit to the incoming CIP Committee – any kind of grants that person has been able to receive for the City. In other words in essence to justify the position that that person has. I know in recall Chief Kane you appeared before this Committee and indicated that because of the expertise in your department that you have been able to utilize people in your department to write these grants. Now whether it would make sense to discharge them and have somebody from another area of the City come in and take over who may not know as much as they do and come back with as much positive results...I know the Alderman has indicated that you are tying up a District Chief as well as an Assistant Chief. Whether they are doing it on their own time or on company time I am not quite sure but I think we can clarify this by saying is the grant writer doing the job that he is supposed to be doing? Are we justified in having a grant writer? If they come back and say he saved the City a couple of million bucks by getting grants in then...obviously knowing information is positive and not knowing is probably open to questioning. I don't blame anyone for questioning it but if you want to comment you may.

Fire Chief Kane stated one of the things that comes to mind is in writing out these grants you would still have to deal with fire people because there is terminology that we use that a civilian wouldn't understand or be able to answer the questions. Our people would have to sit there and answer the specific questions.

Alderman Garrity stated I don't doubt that folks in fire service need to be involved in the grant writing but when we have a grant writer...he has some expertise that folks in fire service don't have about grant writing. I am just saying we used to have a grant writer in the Police Department but when we hired one down at City Hall that is the reason we don't have a grant writer at the Police Department anymore. I would hope that the grant writer would work with both public safety agencies. I am sure he has some expertise that the folks in fire service don't.

Alderman Forest stated the Police grant writer retired.

Alderman Garrity responded right but we didn't rehire anybody because we hired a grant writer down here at City Hall.

Alderman Lopez stated as a note I think that I might have had some impression along the same line but after meeting the grant writer he does talk to every department and e-mail every department regarding all of the grants that are available. Anybody that has a problem with them goes back to him. I know from experience working on the senior center that he does but we can dig into it a little bit more next year.

Alderman Smith stated we did have this discussion with the grant writer. He appeared before us and told us what his duties were and what he did and I think Alderman Lopez brought it up several months ago but we did have him in here to discuss his duties.

Chairman O'Neil stated the discussion I recall was we encourage all departments to utilize the services of the grant writer. That is the feeling of the Board.

Alderman Garrity stated I thought the grant writer was supposed to provide us with a quarterly report.

Chairman O'Neil responded I don't remember that specifically but that would not be a bad idea. We could get an activity report of grants he has written or assisted on or grants that are out there that the departments didn't take action on.

Alderman Garrity stated I believe that was the discussion we had.

Chairman O'Neil stated we can have the Clerk check on that.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated I have a follow-up question. My understanding is that the contract has not been negotiated out completely yet. Am I correct?

Ms. Prew responded that is correct.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson asked but you do need to execute one prior to the middle of January is when the next Board meeting will occur. Am I correct in that assumption?

Ms. Prew answered yes.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated based on that my suggestion would be to recommend to the full Board that the staff be authorized to negotiate a final contract and to have the Mayor execute one with the selected vendor understanding that there is a shortfall of \$380,000 and that the Mayor be authorized to execute that contract subject to the review and approval of the City Solicitor.

Alderman Garrity moved the recommendation as stated by the Deputy City Clerk. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Lopez stated I think it is on the Board's agenda to approve.

Deputy City Clerk responded it is on the Board's agenda as a report from this Committee. This Committee needs to bring out a report to the Board.

Chairman O'Neil stated the only thing I want everyone to be clear on is that we are going to have to, in the next CIP process, whether it is spread over one or two years there is going to be a commitment of \$380,000 to move forward on this.

Chairman O'Neil called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Shea it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee